



Weekly Bulletin

Mary, Queen of the Family Parish

St. Michael's Church, 58 Orwell Street, Blacktown & St. Patrick's Church, 51-59 Allawah Street, Blacktown.

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we worship.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11 MAY 2025

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mary Queen of the Family (MQOF) parish strives to grow as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, continuing to deepen in understanding the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Catholic Church and to live as a faithful and committed Catholic community, evangelising and responding to the needs of the family in the Blacktown community and beyond.

LITURGY TIMES

Sunday Masses

5.30pm Sat Vigil (St Patrick's)
7.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
8.00am Sun (St Michael's)
9.30am Sun (St Michael's)
10.00am Sun (St Patrick's)
11.00am 4th Sun - Filio Mass (St Michael's)
2:00pm - Sudanese Mass (St Patrick's)
1.00pm - Syro-Malabar Mass (St Michael's)
5.30pm Sun (St Patrick's)
6.00pm Sun (St Michael's)

Weekday Masses

St Michael's: 8am Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7.30pm Wed only
St Patrick's: 9am Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs,
Sat and 7.30pm Fri only.

RECONCILIATION

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:20pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:20pm &
Sat 9:30am-10:30am

HOLY HOUR

St Michael's: Wed 6:30pm-7:30pm
St Patrick's: Fri 6:30pm-7:30pm

Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals & Anointing of the Sick by appointment.



Thank you God for giving us Pope Leo XIV!
May the Lord preserve and bless him with the spirit of courage, knowledge and love.



*Wishing all our mothers,
grandmothers, godmothers and mother-
figures a happy and blessed
Mother's Day!*

Parish Directory

St. Michael's Church - 58 Orwell Street, South Blacktown &
St. Patrick's Church - 51-59 Allawah Street Blacktown.

Parish Office: At St. Patrick's Church. Office Hours: Mon-Fri: 9am-4pm

Telephone: 02 9622 1125 A/H: 02 8705 0830.

Website: www.mqofblacktown.org.au Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Wim Hoekstra

Assistant Priests: Fr Andrew Rooney, Fr Stephen Onyekwere

Deacon: Rev. John Cinya

Finance Officer: Sarah Canete-Damole Email: accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au

Parish Secretary: Jill Franco (Tue to Fri) Email: admin@mqofblacktown.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator: Gerald "Ged" Oblea. (Mon to Wed) Mobile: 0422 724 008

Email: sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au

Catechist Coordinator: Sandra Baker

Parish Pastoral Council: Chair: Cecil Fernandes; Asst Chair: Joshua Carr Secretary: Savita Surendra

Members: Beato Pudadera, Christe Degollacion, Ekhlas Ambili, Erica Luiz, Helena Veal, Harlane Petersen, Sidney Lazum, Fr. Wim Hoekstra, Fr. Andrew Rooney, Fr. Stephen Onyekwere, Rev. John Cinya.

Parish Schools:

St Michael's Primary:

P : 8869 6200 <https://www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

St Patrick's Primary:

P : 8869 6000 <https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Nagle College:

P : 8887 4500 <https://www.nagleblacktown.catholic.edu.au>

Patrician Brothers College:

P : 8811 0300 <https://www.patsblacktown.nsw.edu.au>

Catholic Early Learning Centre (St Michael's) :

P : 8814 8406 <https://www.celcblacktownsth.catholic.edu.au>

Aged Care Facilities:

Opal Nursing Home (37 Kildare Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 9852 9600

Mullauna Retirement Village (61 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown NSW 2148) P : 8822 2100



Fourth Sunday of Easter

"My sheep hear my voice..."
John 10: 27-30

The gospel-reading for this Fourth Sunday of Easter is the conclusion of John's fairly long treatment of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Depictions of Jesus, the Shepherd, which we have all seen in churches and kindergarten and lower-primary-school classrooms present a Jesus who is immaculately attired and neatly groomed, without even a hair out of place. There is nothing about his demeanour that even suggests the ruggedness of shepherd life.

Poets and musical composers across the centuries have given us presentations of country life and its associated activities as though they offered an idyllic existence. In relatively recent times, Beethoven (1770-1827), gave us his Pastoral Symphony (No. 6), which evoked some of the serenity of life close to nature. About seven decades before the time of Christ, the Roman poet Virgil wrote a collection of poems often called the *Bucolics*. The offered a graphic description of some of the darker side of country life in the Roman Republic when the political world was in upheaval, with landowners usurping others' property and destroying their farms, devastating their flocks and burning their crops.

As we try to absorb John's writing about Jesus, the Good Shepherd, it is important, I suggest, that we take into account the context in which Jesus had been going about his ministry to the people of his day. While he had been reaching out to the poor, the needy, the sick and the lame, he was unrelenting in the manner in which he challenged the authoritarian practices and values of the religious elite who regarded themselves as superior to the people for whom they were meant to care.

In today's gospel-reading, we hear how his description of himself as the Good Shepherd and of the ministry entrusted to him by his Father had upset the religious authorities. It was that statement that pushed them to demand that he reveal his true identity. In the verses immediately following today's gospel-reading, the elders gathered around Jesus asked: "How much longer are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ (the Messiah), tell us plainly." (John 10: 25).

Through his engagements with the religious leaders, Jesus had been asking them to see if they could imagine that God might be asking them to set aside their rigid way of exercising their responsibilities and imagine that God might be inviting them to embrace a different way of doing things. And is that challenge not equally relevant to us and our current Church leaders? If we believe that God's word is alive and active in our world and that Jesus is God's Word who calls us to conversion, it follows that conversion of heart requires change and letting go of some of the "certainties" to which we have been inclined to cling. The late Pope Francis reminded us of that in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (Rome, 24/11/2013), when he wrote:

"God's word is unpredictable in its power. The Gospel speaks of a seed which, once sown, grows by itself, even as the farmer sleeps (Mk 4:26-29). The Church has to accept this unruly freedom of the word, which accomplishes what it wills in ways that surpass our calculations and ways of thinking." (#22) Some years later, at a time when the American bishops were trying to respond to a clear loss of credibility of the Catholic Church in the United States, Pope Francis wrote to them, stating: "At times of great confusion and uncertainty, we need to be attentive and discerning, to free our hearts of compromises and false certainties, to hear what the Lord asks of us in the mission he has given us. Many actions can be helpful, good and necessary, and may even seem correct, but not

all of them have the 'flavour of the Gospel'. To put it colloquially, we have to be careful that 'the cure does not become worse than the disease.'

And this requires of us wisdom, prayer, much listening and fraternal communion." (Letter Sent by The Holy Father to the Bishops of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 01/01/2019 #6) Later in the same letter, urging the Bishops individually and communally to respond to her advice, Pope Francis quoted Mother Teresa of Calcutta: "Yes, I have many human faults and failures... But God bends down and uses us, you and me, to be God's love and compassion in the world; God bears our sins, our troubles and our faults. God depends on us to love the world and to show how much God loves it. If we are too concerned with ourselves, we will have no time left for others." (cited in Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate* 19/03/2018)

Rejecting Jesus and his teaching, they were effectively rejecting God's offer of eternal life, they were accused of blasphemy - the very same accusation that was levelled at Jesus (see John 10:33).

All of this is simply to point out that when Jesus asserted: "I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father." (John 10: 14-15), he was inviting all who are intent on knowing him to discover him by walking in his footsteps rather than by searching to acquire some intellectual knowledge of him. We all come to know and love others by walking beside them. Coming to know Jesus, the good shepherd will happen only through being present to him and closely associating with him.

We also need to remember that at no stage did Jesus promise us or anyone else everlasting earthly life. He came and lived and died among humanity so that we might have eternal life. We belong to him, and with him, we belong to God.

That Jesus described himself as the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep and protects them from thieves and brigands (see John 10: 9-12) revealed his concern that the "sheep" who followed him risked persecution and rejection. He sensed that they would be treated no differently from the way in which he was treated by people in leadership who saw to it that he was condemned and handed over to the Romans to be crucified. That kind of treatment was exactly what was meted out to Paul and Barnabas, as Luke attested in today's first reading from Acts.

This reading from Acts also confirms that for a local community to accept Jesus and his teaching would not only undermine the security and comfort of its leaders but would also destabilise the prevailing social structure. It was for those reasons that the Jewish religious leaders of Antioch persuaded the wealthy members of their community to expel Paul and Barnabas. That was a blessing in disguise for it gave Paul and Barnabas opportunity to proclaim their message to open-minded gentiles.

Today's second reading from the Apocalypse also confirms that those who accept Jesus will also know persecution; they will be "washed in the blood of the lamb". Taken together, all three readings take us full circle and back to the prologue of John's Gospel where we are given a synopsis of Jesus' life and mission: "The Word was the true light that enlightens all people... He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God..." (John 1: 9-12)

The world in which Jesus, the good shepherd lived out his vocation was probably closer to the world Virgil described in his *Bucolics* than to anything else. And being shepherds in the style of Jesus and being open to be embraced as his sheep is more complicated than we have previously imagined. Now, that's something on which we can all reflect.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf Psalm 32:5-6

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52

We are now turning to the gentiles.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: PS 99:1-3. 5. R. V.3

R ~ We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9, 14-17

The Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: John 10:27-30

Jesus said:

'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice;

I know them and they follow me.

I give them eternal life;

they will never be lost

and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone,

and no one can steal from the Father.

The Father and I are one.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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From Tuesday 20th—Friday 23rd May, the Parish Clergy will be at a residential conference in Terrigal. The Liturgy schedule is still being finalised. The Parish Office will remain open during this time.

Smiles for the day....

This morning my son said his ear hurt and I said on the inside or the outside, so he walks to the front door, comes back in and says both. Moments like this got me wondering if I'm saving too much for college.

I'll never forget the look on the cashier's face, when she scanned the packet of bird seed, and I asked her how long does it take for the birds to grow once I plant them.



PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECENTLY DECEASED

Pope Francis

Jeremy Nicola, Augusto Balanzat, Anthony Hereford,
Kelly Zammit, Michelina Zammit, Marie DeSouza, Joyce Cauchi,

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Coronato Attard, Rita Pace, Maria Frugal, Joseph Azzopardi,
Joe Aquilina, Rocco Borg, Teodoro & Emma Sibulo,
Purification Limun, Stan Saldanha

DECEASED

Felisa Abas, Felixberto Correa, John Gibson, Monica Torno,
Rosendo Cortez, Alberto & Felisa Nicdao, Candida Irugal-Bandara,
Giuzepa & Cutajar family, Michael & Cefai family,
Gafa family & Spiriteri

SICK

Patricia Wright, Allen Liu, Yolanda Lagar, Baby Amelia, Susan Perry
-McCarthy, Jackson Jang, Araceli Bautista, Dominique, Lourdes
Novestreras, Phillippa Schembri, Fernando Pena Espinoza, Amanda
Sales, Allan McKay, Habib Harry Nomra, Veronica Rubio.

Please pray for those who are sick..

Mass intentions can be requested online by visiting the website.

<https://www.mqofblacktown.org/mass-intention-or-offering-request>

**MOTHER'S DAY MARKETPLACE
SUNDAY 11 MAY**

Need a last minute gift for Mum?

The MQOF Flower Ministry is holding a stall where a great variety of baked goods, plants and gifts will be on sale. There will also be a raffle with

four great prizes to be won! **Find them at: St. Michael's after the 8am & 9am masses and St. Pat's after the 10am mass.**

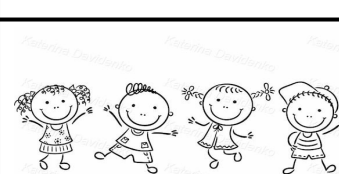
CHURCH MATTERS UPDATE

The roof repairs at St Patrick's are continuing, but the rain and weather has delayed completion—pushed out to the middle of June.

Once the roofing work is completed, we will move to the security of both communities with the grant given by the State Government.

We have a vacancy in our Parish Finance Committee. If you would like to be considered, please speak to Fr Wim. The next meeting of the Parish Finance Committee is scheduled for 5 June.

To assist our parish needs, can you consider donating regularly online, either via EFT, credit/debit cards or even envelopes. This will help us plan for the future of Mary Queen of the Family Parish.

**Children's Liturgy Workshop—
15 May**

Are you a part of children's liturgy or looking to get started? Come along to this informative workshop to learn more about the Di-

ocesan guidelines, meet children's liturgy teams from other parishes, and ask any questions you may have about this rewarding ministry. This workshop will be held at the Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion Street, Blacktown on Thursday, 15 May at 7-8.30pm. Please RSVP via parracatholic.org/events/OFW by 12 May. For enquiries please contact ofw@parracatholic.org or **0460 037 795**.

THE SACRAMENTS / MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Our clergy and pastoral care ministers bring the sacraments of Eucharist, reconciliation, and anointing of the sick to members who are unable to participate because of illness or aging. For more information and to arrange receiving of the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office on 9622 1125 or after office hours number 02 8705 0830.



PARISH GROUPS

HOLY FAMILY FELLOWSHIP PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Charles Hyson, 0412 631 602, www.holyfamilyfellowship.com
Meeting Time and Venue: Please contact Charles for more information.

JOSEPHITE COMPANIONS



Contact: Antoinette Mangion, 0414 735 943
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 3rd Monday of the month, 10:00 am at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church

LEGION OF MARY ST MICHAEL'S



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Thursday, 12:00pm – 1:30pm at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church.

LEGION OF MARY ST PATRICK'S



Contact: Doris Zammit, 0419 274 002 (for statue bookings)
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

MARIAN MOVEMENT OF PRIESTS



Contact: Max Rosario, 0490 137 533
Meeting Time and Venue: Monday 9:30am-10:30am at Sid Mosley Centre, St Michael's Church. All are welcome!

MQOF SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP

Contact: Frank Mangion, 0410 830 877
Meeting Time and Venue: 18th May 2025, 12pm – 2pm at Cardinal Clancy room, St Patrick's Church.

ROSARY GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8am Mass, at St Michael's church.

CATECHIST MINISTRY

Contact: Sandra Baker
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
 For more information, please contact the parish office.

TEHILLAH COMMUNITY



Contact: Ash & Rozario Fernando, 0416 861 976 or 0412 195 916
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd & 4th Saturday (during school term only), 2pm – 4pm at the Cardinal Clancy Room, St Patrick's Church.

TRUE LIFE IN GOD PRAYER GROUP



Contact: Diane Zerafa, 0403 554 566
Meeting Time and Venue: Every 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.00pm at Sid Mosley Centre St Michael's Church

YOUTH MINISTRY



Contact: Parish Office
admin@mqofblacktown.org.au
 For More Information please contact our Youth Minister through the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF INITIATION

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their children baptised are to contact the parish office prior to attending a Baptism workshop.

The next workshop will on Saturday 7th June 2025 @ 2pm - St. Patrick's Church.

For more information please logon to our website:
<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/#baptism>

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025



Registrations for Sacramental processes are **NOW OPEN!**

Sacramental program dates and registration forms are available online on our parish website:

<https://mqofblacktown.org.au/sacraments/>

For more information, please contact our

Sacramental Coordinator, Gerald "Ged" Oblea at sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au or on (02) 9622 1125 (option 3) /

Join us every Friday from 10:00am till 12:00pm at Cardinal Clancy room at St. Patrick's Church, for our Arts and Crafts activities will include: Embroidery and Embellishment, Crocheting, Knitting, Arts and Crafts (Painting) & Sewing. **Please note that Tuesday sessions at St Michael are suspended from 29 April to 17 June.** Noemi Romero on 0475 798



Session Five:

CHURCH TOUR

Sunday, 18th May at 11:30am

MPA Room, St Patrick's Church

Ages 10-15 | Snacks provided

MQOF PARISH KEY EVENTS 2025

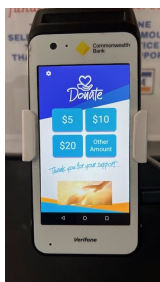


Date	Occasion	Intention
13 May – 22 June	Sacramental Program – 1 st Holy Communion	Pray for our children and their parents
30 th May'25	Pentecost Novena starts	Prepare to receive the Holy Spirit together as a community
8 th Jun'25	Feast of Pentecost	Celebrating our diversity under the banner of the same Holy Spirit – the 3 rd person of the Blessed Trinity
22 nd Jun'25 11.15 am – 1pm	Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ – <i>Eucharistic procession from St. Pats to St. Michaels</i>	Bringing together our families, ministries & community - together as one big family to adore & worship the body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ
June (3 days) Date - TBA	Fr. Wim teaches on the Pauline letters	Grow in our understanding of our rich faith
29 July – 28 Aug	Sacramental Program – Confirmation	Pray for our children and their parents
15 th Aug	Parish Feast Novena starts	
24 th Aug	Parish Feast Day – celebration on St. Pats after the 10am mass	Coming together as one family under our Parish banner
1 Sep – 3 Nov Every Monday	Alpha Program - in the MPA (St. Pats) -	For those seeking something more with their lives but don't know what – leading them to Jesus the Son of God
End-Oct – Easter Every Tuesday 7pm	RCIA Program – for those wanting to become Catholics – the team has a program that includes 20 Symbolon sessions	Accompanying our Pre-catechumen's through their journey of faith into the Catholic Church
24 Oct (7am-3pm)	Parish Golf Day at Stonecutters Ridge Golf course	Parish Fund raising event
21 Oct – 13 Nov	Sacramental Program – 1 st Reconciliation	Pray for our children and their parents
Oct(3 days) Date - TBA	Fr. Stephen teaches on matters of Faith	Grow in our understanding of our rich faith
26 th Nov after 10am Mass	MQOF Parish AGM – election of a new PPC team for 3 year term	Opportunity to support our Priests in their Pastoral roles
Dec(3 days) Date - TBA	Fr. Andrew Rooney teaches on matters of Faith	Grow in our understanding of our rich faith
13 th Dec	MQOF Parish Christmas Gala	Bringing together our gifts & talents to celebrate the Christmas spirit while building on community relationships

We need your support to make these events happen – thank you for your help in building our Parish community centred in Christ

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

You can also support the parish by using our **Tap & Go Machine**. The machine amount is variable, please use the screen to donate the amount you wish to give. It also accepts Apple Pay, Google Pay and Pay Wave. All contributions go to the maintenance and development of the Parish as does the second collection at weekend Masses.



Planned Giving (Direct Debit or Credit Card) is also an option if you wish to do cashless donation to the parish, forms are available in the foyer and on our parish website or contact the parish office on 9622 1125.

Setting up a one-time or recurring donation/Planned Giving is quick and easy. Just go to: www.mqofblacktown.org.au/donations or use the QR code. You can also send your offerings/donations thru bank transfer:

FIRST COLLECTION: For the Diocesan Clergy

Account Name: Diocesan Clergy
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 4265
Reference: 6004 - Donor's Name

SECOND COLLECTION: For the Parish

Account Name: Blacktown Catholic Church
Bank: CBA BSB: 067 950 Account Number: 0000 0677
Reference: 6004 ~ Donor's name



If you encounter any issues signing up, please email Sarah at accounts@mqofblacktown.org.au. Thank you so much for your continued support to our parish. We are grateful!

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[https://
www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/](https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/)

Tel: 8869 6000

ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

155 Reservoir Road Blacktown South

**2026
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Contact the school office on
8869 6200 or download an
enrolment pack our website
our website.




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SCHOOL TOURS

30 July 2025
9:00AM-10:30AM



Nagle College, Blacktown South

Families interested in enrolling in our College will have the opportunity to explore our school grounds and facilities, meet our staff, and to ask any questions you may have about the enrolment process.

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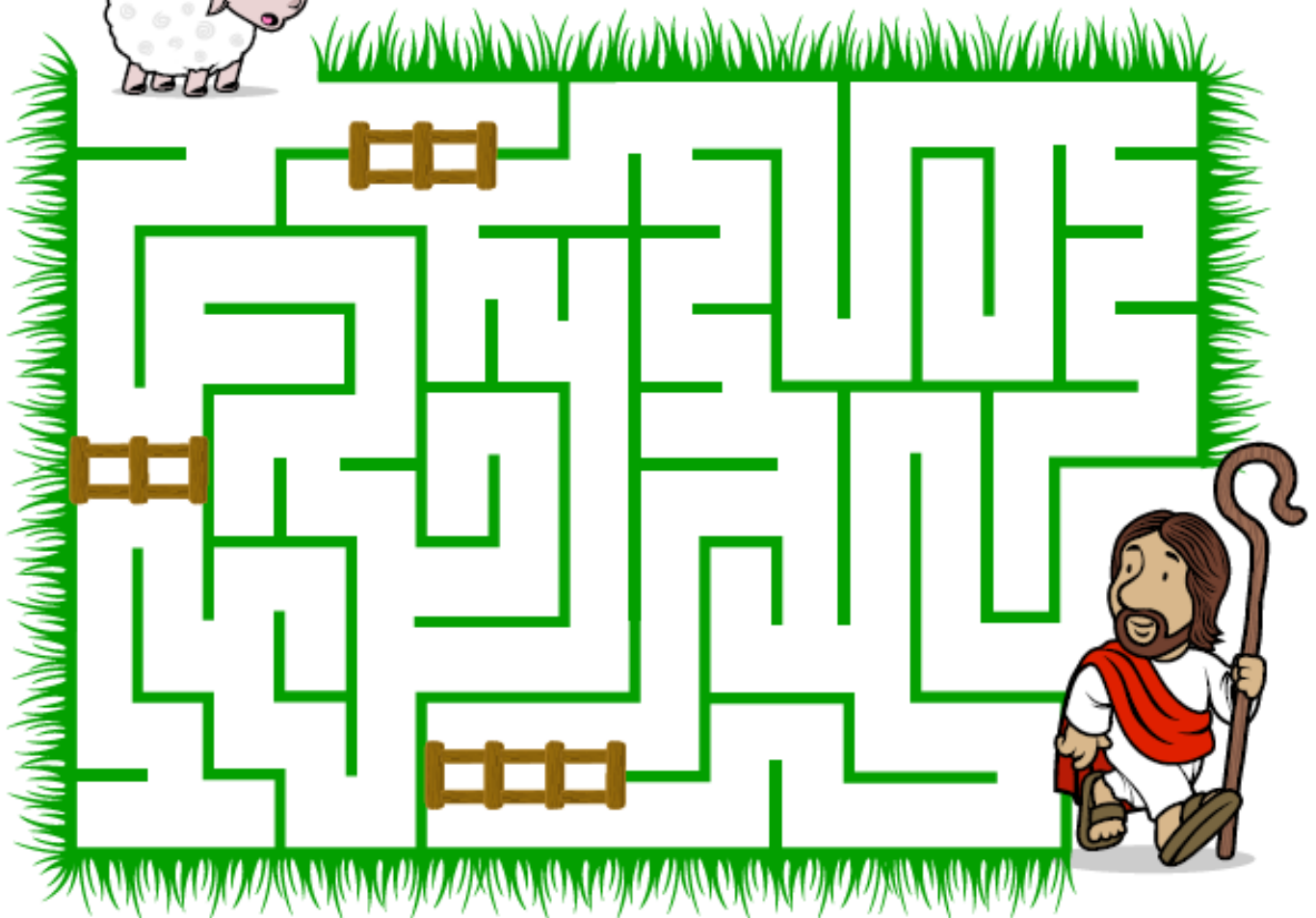
Jn 10:27-30

My name is

Jesus is our shepherd and we follow him



Help this sheep to follow Jesus



Circle the two sheep that are identical.

